Amateur Radio Emergency Corps, Inc.

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ARES NET CONTROL GUIDELINES

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Serving public safety agencies, charitable and civic organizations

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ARES NET CONTROL GUIDELINES

Forward

On a radio circuit, the purpose of the Net Control Station, is to keep control of air time used by stations exchanging traffic on that circuit. As much as possible, the NCS must keep the air clear so that emergency calls can be responded to without delay.

In Military, Law Enforcement, and Fire/Emergency Medical Response communications,air time is treated as a very precious commodity, as lives are at stake. Even during routine operations, delayed communications, means delayed response and that delay could be the difference between life and death.

In severe weather conditions we must treat our air time with that same respect. The Sullivan Weather Service Office depends on our ability to communicate information needed in their evaluation of serious weather conditions. Any delay slows down the whole process.

As in the past ARES operations – like parades and other public service events – are great opportunities for training our members how to operate during severe weather nets. The NCS's for these public service events should maintain the same control of air time and net discipline, that they would during a severe weather operation.

The ARES Monday night net is a very popular gathering of stations in Southern Wisconsin and beyond. There is a lot of information given out. A lot of stations check in just to find out how a weekend event went or when the next one begins. People check in for many different reasons. With the linking of several repeaters, many stations are checking in each week. Because the same repeaters are linked during a severe weather net, this is a great opportunity to train some of the same stations that check into both the severe weather nets and the Monday net.

The ARES Monday night net could be a great training ground for ARES members on proper net operation. The Net Control Stations for the Monday net should be selected on the basis of suitability for severe weather net operations.

With this type of training, the number of competent Net Control Stations will increase and make our severe weather operations much more efficient and professional.

ARES NET CONTROL GUIDELINES

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE, SULLIVAN, WI

Background

For the better part of two decades prior to October 31, 1989, the Milwaukee ARES was responsible for coordinating the amateur radio contribution to the Milwaukee National Weather Service (NWS) Sky Warn program. With the construction of new NWS facilities in Sullivan, Wisconsin, the responsibility for supplying manpower and coordination at the Weather Service Office (WSO) at Sullivan passed to a special Emergency Coordinator appointed for that purpose. Concurrently, Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties were merged into a single ARES entity. The Milwaukee/Waukesha ARES continues to be responsible for providing a coordinating net on 07/67 which will forward severe weather reports from Southeast Wisconsin to the Sullivan WSO and stand ready to coordinate disaster relief efforts in Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties.

Purpose

The purposes of a severe weather net are multiple and include the following:

a) To give the Weather Service direct access to several hundred observers in Southern Wisconsin. This provides an additional source of eyewitness reports of severe weather necessary to the forecasters. This is the primary mission of the net until the threat of severe weather had passed. In the event of a local disaster occuring during a severe weather net, disaster and weather communications will be equal in priority.

b) To provide other served agencies with timely data relating to severe weather for their planning purposes.

c) To provide a supplementary channel of communications to client agencies in the event of an overload on primary communications circuits.

d) To provide an in-place primary communications circuit capable of handling message traffic in the event normal lines of communications between client agencies are severed.

e) To have an in-place and functioning communications net capable of shifting to support of disaster relief operations during or after the termination of the severe weather alert.

Activation

The Milwaukee/Waukesha ARES Severe Weather Net will be called upon the issuance of a Tornado Watch by NWS which includes Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties. Similarly a standby net will commence upon the issuance of a Severe Thunderstorm Watch by NWS which includes Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties. The level of activation may be reduced to standby status by the EC if it is apparent that the local area will not be affected by severe weather for several hours.

Upon issuance of the watch, the Emergency Coordinator (or his deputy) will initiate a Severe Weather Net on the ARES repeater as follows:

a) Activate the emergency tone.

b) Appoint a Net Control Station and appraise NCS of the current situation and personnel assignments already made. NCS will read the following Activation Broadcast:

Severe Weather Net – Activation

ATTENTION, ALL STATIONS.

THIS IS (your call) **ASSISTANT EMERGENCY COORDINATOR AND NET CONTROL STATION FOR THE SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN A.R.E.S.**

A SEVERE WEATHER NET IS NOW CALLED AT (time) **LOCAL TIME.**

THIS IS A DIRECTED NET AND ALL COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT AT THE DIRECTION OF THE NET CONTROL STATION.

ONLY STATIONS WITH LEGITIMATE SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS OR EMERGENCY TRAFFIC SHOULD BREAK INTO THIS NET.

GUIDELINES OUTLINING SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS WILL FOLLOW.

THE CURRENT SITUATION IS _____
(brief outline of current weather situation)

ALL ASSISTANT EMERGENCY COORDINATORS PLEASE CHECK IN AT THIS TIME WITH YOUR CALL SIGN AND AVAILABILITY.

THIS IS (your call) **NET CONTROL.**

c) Make such immediate assignments as NCS feels necessary. (e.g.: Sheriff's Office, liaison stations.)

Upon completion of the above, the Emergency Coordinator will proceed to the Emergency Operations Center of Milwaukee County, located in the Safety Building, 821 West State Street.

Duties of the NCS

The duties of the Net Control Station (NCS) shall include the following:

a) Direct and maintain control over traffic being passed on the ARES repeater.

b) Assign personnel to operate priority stations, if not done by the EC and assign relief personnel as necessary.

c) Periodically read instructions on net procedures and types of severe weather to report using prepared scripts.

Severe Weather Net – Report Outline

ATTENTION, ALL STATIONS.

THIS IS (your call) NET CONTROL.

A SEVERE WEATHER NET IS NOW IN PROGRESS. ONLY STATIONS WITH LEGITIMATE SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS OR EMERGENCY TRAFFIC SHOULD BREAK INTO THIS NET.

THE ONLY REPORTS CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE ARE REPORTS OF TORNADOS ON THE GROUND . . FUNNEL CLOUDS ALOFT . . HAIL HALF INCH OR LARGER . . WINDS IN EXCESS OF FIFTY-FIVE MILES AN HOUR . . FLOODING OR ACTUAL STORM DAMAGE.

CONDITION REPORTS NOT FILLING THESE CRITERIA SHOULD NOT BE PASSED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY NET CONTROL. ALL LEGITIMATE SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS SHOULD CONTAIN THE ELEMENTS OF CONDITION . . TIME . . AND LOCATION.

CONDITION IS WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING. IT MUST FIT ONE OF THE CRITERIA JUST MENTIONED.

TIME IS THE TIME YOU OBSERVED THE EVENT. IF YOU DIDN'T SEE IT – DON'T REPORT IT.

LOCATION IS THE EXACT LOCATION OF THE EVENT. USE STREET NAMES OR HIGHWAY NUMBERS WHICH CAN BE PINPOINTED ON MAPS.

THIS IS (your call) NET CONTROL.

Severe Weather Net – Report Criteria

ATTENTION, ALL STATIONS.

THIS IS (your call) NET CONTROL.

A SEVERE WEATHER NET IS NOW IN PROGRESS. ONLY STATIONS WITH LEGITIMATE SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS OR EMERGENCY TRAFFIC SHOULD BREAK INTO THIS NET.

THE ONLY REPORTS CONSIDERED LEGITIMATE ARE REPORTS OF TORNADOS ON THE GROUND . . FUNNEL CLOUDS ALOFT . . HAIL MEASURED AT HALF AN INCH IN DIAMETER OR LARGER . . WINDS IN EXCESS OF FIFTY-FIVE MILES AN HOUR, SUCH WINDS WILL CAUSE STRUCTURAL DAMAGE, LARGE BRANCHES TO BREAK AND WILL MAKE WALKING VERY DIFFICULT . . FLOODING AND OTHER ACTUAL STORM DAMAGE.

ANY REPORTS NOT MEETING ONE OR MORE OF THESE CRITERIA
SHOULD NOT BE PASSED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY NET CONTROL.

THIS IS (your call) NET CONTROL.

d) Keep the frequency clear for emergency communications.

e) Acknowledge and respond to all calls immediately.

f) Maintain an accurate log of all calls and traffic.

g) The NCS should be equipped with emergency power.

Reporting Procedure

Unless otherwise indicated by the Weather Service, only one or more of the events in the following criteria are reportable:

Condition

Event	Report
1. Tornado on the ground	Tornado
2. Funnel cloud aloft and rotating	Funnel cloud
3. Winds 55mph or higher	High winds
4. Hail, one-half inch or larger	Hail
5. Actual damage or flooding	Damage / flooding

Message format for reporting severe weather:

Location and **Time**
1. Exact location
2. Time of Occurrence
3. Severe weather event from condition above
4. Source of report, if other than reporting station

Severe Weather Net – Reporting Procedure

ATTENTION, ALL STATIONS.

THIS IS (your call) NET CONTROL.

BECAUSE MANY REPORTS MAY HAVE TO BE PASSED AND THAT TIME IS CRITICAL . . THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE WILL BE FOLLOWED: TO REPORT INTO THIS SEVERE WEATHER NET STATE YOUR CALL USING STANDARD PHONETICS AND STATE CONDITION. NET CONTROL WILL RESPOND WITH " call sign GO AHEAD".

TRANSMIT YOUR REPORT CLEARLY . . SLOWLY AND CALMLY GIVING EACH OF THE ELEMENTS OF CONDITION . . LOCATION . . AND TIME.

BE SURE THE CONDITION YOU ARE REPORTING MEETS ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL CRITERIA OF A LEGITIMATE SEVERE WEATHER REPORT.

WHEN YOUR REPORT IS COMPLETED, DROP YOUR CARRIER AND NET CONTROL WILL ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS MESSAGE WITH "ROGER".

IF NET CONTROL OR ANOTHER PRIORITY STATION ASKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION, ANSWER THE CALLING STATION DIRECTLY WITHOUT FURTHER USE OF CALL SIGNS. MAKE YOUR STATEMENTS CLEAR AND BRIEF. OTHERWISE NO FURTHER RESPONSE FROM YOUR STATION IS NECESSARY.

THIS IS (your call) NET CONTROL.

Stations with reports will follow the following procedure:

1. Call the NCS and use one of the five criteria to indicate a valid report.
2. NCS will indicate " (call sign) GO AHEAD".
3. Transmit the report at longhand dictation speed using message format noted above, without repeating your call sign.
4. NCS will respond with a simple "ROGER".
5. Weather Service will also "ROGER".

Example:

Station calling:	"WB9 ALPHA BRAVO CHARLIE . . . HAIL"
NCS:	" (call sign) GO AHEAD"
Station calling:	"AT 4:35, HWY 20 AND 36, NEAR WATERFORD, RACINE COUNTY 3/4 INCH HAIL"
NCS:	"SAY AGAIN THE TIME"
Station calling:	"4:35"
NCS:	"ROGER, NET CONTROL CLEAR"
Weather Service:	"WEATHER SERVICE, ROGER"

TRANSMISSION IS COMPLETED ! ! !

NOTE: Should NCS require a repeat – say, "SAY AGAIN" – not "REPEAT"!

Be available for followup information if necessary, or as requested.

1. Call NCS, using the word "FOLLOWUP".
2. Start the message with:
   "REFERENCE THE REPORT OF (event), OCCURED AT (time) "
3. Follow with added or requested information.

During quiet times NCS will make reminder announcements that a directed net is in progress.

Severe Weather Net – Net in Progress Reminder

ATTENTION, ALL STATIONS.

THIS IS (your call) NET CONTROL STATION FOR THE SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN A.R.E.S.

A SEVERE WEATHER NET IS IN PROGRESS AT THIS TIME. PLEASE MONITOR BUT DO NOT BREAK INTO THIS NET UNLESS YOU HAVE EMERGENCY TRAFFIC OR LEGITIMATE SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS. THE CRITERIA AND FORMAT FOR A SEVERE WEATHER REPORT WILL BE ANNOUNCED SHORTLY.

THIS IS (your call) NET CONTROL.

DUTIES OF THE BACK-UP NCS. As soon as possible after activating the net, the NCS should assign a back-up NCS who will be responsible for keeping abreast of all matters on the net so as to be able to take over NCS at a moment's notice.

PRIORITY SEVERE WEATHER NET STATIONS. Certain stations are designated priority stations. They may call any other station without going through Net Control. The call sign of a priority station shall be the name of the station rather than the call of the operator at the station. The priority severe weather net stations are:

"Sullivan Weather"	National Weather Service Office, Sullivan, WI
"State Weather"	W9NGT, Sherm Carr, Hartford, WI

Securing the Net

Severe Weather Net – To Secure the Net

ATTENTION, ALL STATIONS.

THIS IS (your call) NET CONTROL STATION FOR THE SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN A.R.E.S.

I WISH TO THANK ALL STATIONS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THIS SEVERE WEATHER NET. YOUR HELP WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

THIS NET IS SECURED AT (time) LOCAL TIME.

THIS IS (your call) CLEAR.

TV Station Participation

As of this date WTMJ-TV (TV-4) and WITI-TV (TV-6) are directly assisting the Weather Service via ARES. For the interest of Net Control, the following are the instructions given to ARES volunteers operating from a television station's weather office.

1. Turn on equipment using switch on Power Supply.

2. Radio should be tuned to 146.67 with squelch decode on.

3. USE HEADPHONES – do not use speaker unless specifically asked to do so by meteorologist.

4. Do not transmit when meteorologist is broadcasting. If you are called by Net Control during a broadcast, pop the squelch twice quickly to indicate you hear but cannot respond. As soon as the broadcast is over, respond to the call.

5. COPY ALL WEATHER-RELATED TRAFFIC – you will periodically need to refer back to previous messages; the only way to do so accurately is to refer to your written log.

6. Check in with Net Control during a lull.

7. Do not "QSY" or leave the rig unattended unless you first advise Net Control.

8. The same rules apply to transmissions during a severe weather net as apply to other stations on the net with the additional item that a message from the meteorologist regarding a significant radar echo (or question relating to a warning) are also allowed.

E.G.: "I HAVE A ROTATION ECHO AT (place) (time)."

9. Use tactical call "**SULLIVAN**" or "**STATE WEATHER**".

10. During long nets, plan ahead for relief operators.

11. When net closes, turn off power at Power Supply being sure that radio is set to 07/67. (The purpose of this is to (a) avoid any fire hazard which might result from turning off the radio but leaving the power supply on, and (b) allow for monitoring by non-hams by simply turning on the power.

At the back of this manual are copies of available forms:

AREA SEVERE WEATHER SUMMARY SHEET
SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN COUNTIES

• – End of National Weather Service Section – •

Monday Night Net

Weekly Net – Standard Introduction and Script

THIS IS (your call) , NET CONTROL FOR THE SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE NET.

THIS NET MEETS EACH MONDAY AT 9 PM LOCAL TIME. IT IS A PART OF THE NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM AND WILL ACCEPT FORMAL TRAFFIC.

THIS NET IS USED FOR TRAINING AND ALL PROPER NETWORK PROCEDURES SHOULD BE FOLLOWED. CONSIDER THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PRACTICE UNDER CONTROLLED CONDITIONS.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS DURING THIS NET WILL BE DIRECTED BY NET CONTROL. YOUR CONTROL OPERATOR TONIGHT IS (your call) .

WE NOW STAND BY FOR STATIONS WITH FORMAL TRAFFIC ONLY. LIST THE PRECEDENCE AND DESTINATION OF YOUR TRAFFIC . . . . .

WE NOW STAND BY FOR STATIONS WITH ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GENERAL INTEREST TO THE NET. YOUR CALL LETTERS, IN STANDARD PHONETICS ONLY PLEASE . . . . .

WE NOW STAND BY FOR STATIONS WITH INFORMAL TRAFFIC FOR INDIVIDUALS. LIST YOUR CALL AND THE CALL OF THE STATION YOU WISH TO CONTACT . . . . .

*(** ALPHABETICAL CHECK-INS)*

WE NOW STAND BY FOR ALL OTHER STATIONS. *(NOTE: at this point check-ins may be taken by individual repeater systems connectec to the net.)* **PLEASE IDENTIFY WITH STANDARD PHONETICS. DO NOT MAKE COMMENTS SUCH AS: "GOOD EVENING" OR "NO TRAFFIC"**

(Optional –>) **STATIONS IN THE ALPHABETICAL SEGMENT:**

A ALPHA THUR **E** ECHO

F FOXTROT THRU **H** HOTEL

I INDIA THRU **M** MIKE

N NOVEMBER THRU **P** PAPA

Q QUEBEC THRU **S** SIERRA

T TANGO THRU **U** UNIFORM

V VICTOR THRU **Z** ZULU

WE NOW STAND BY FOR ANY STATION WHO WILL ACCEPT TRAFFIC FOR (destination) **.**

(NOTE: ONLY PRIORITY traffic will be passed at this time. Routine traffic will be passed as the last business of the net.)

WE NOW STAND BY FOR _____ WHO HAS AN ANNOUNCEMENT

WE NOW STAND BY FOR _____ TO CONTACT _____. CALL YOUR STATION.

IS THERE ANY FINAL TRAFFIC FOR THIS NET? THIS IS (your call) **, NET CONTROL STANDING BY.**

ANY NEWCOMERS OR LATECOMERS.

THIS CONCLUDES THE SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN A.R.E.S. NET. YOUR NET CONTROL OPERATOR NEXT WEEK WILL BE _____. THIS NET IS NOW SECURED AT (time) **. THIS IS _____ NET CONTROL, CLEAR.**

• – End of Monday Night Net Section – •

Special Nets

Special Nets are called for various other ARES activities, such as: disasters, parades, etc.

THIS IS (your call) **, NET CONTROL FOR THE** (describe the function) **.**

THIS IS A DIRECTED NET (announce any special rules for operation) **.**

• – End of Special Nets Section – •

Control

In order to have an efficient operating network, it is necessary that the NET CONTROL STATION control the operations of the network. however, control action should be limited to that required to maintain order or to immediately restore order. amplification of information regarding a breach of circuit discipline must be taken immediately. Do not tie up the net with lengthly exchanges. Exchanges should be limited to notifications only. (The offending net member should have the problem explained later in a "face-to-face" meeting.)

• – End of Control Section – •

ARES NET CONTROL
GUIDELINES

Phonetic Alphabet

LETTER	PHONETIC	SPOKEN AS	LETTER	PHONETIC	SPOKEN AS
A	ALFA	AL FAH	N	NOVEMBER	NO VEM BER
B	BRAVO	BRAH VOH	O	OSCAR	OSS CAR
C	CHARLIE	CHAR LEE	P	PAPA	PAH PAH
D	DELTA	DELL TAH	Q	QUEBEC	KEH BECK
E	ECHO	ECK OH	R	ROMEO	ROW ME OH
F	FOXTROT	FOKS TROT	S	SIERRA	SEE AIR RAH
G	GOLF	GOLF	T	TANGO	TANG GO
H	HOTEL	HOH TELL	U	UNIFORM	YOU NEE FORM
I	INDIA	IN DEE AH	V	VICTOR	VIK TAR
J	JULIETT	JEW LEE ETT	W	WHISKEY	WISS KEY
K	KILO	KEY LOH	X	XRAY	ECKS RAY
L	LIMA	LEE MAH	Y	YANKEE	YANK KEY
M	MIKE	MIKE	Z	ZULU	ZOO LOO

(NOTE: Syllables underlined carry the accent.)

Numbers

WRITTEN NUMERAL	SPOKEN AS	WRITTEN NUMERAL	SPOKEN AS	WRITTEN NUMERAL	SPOKEN AS
1	WUN	4	FO-WER	7	SEVEN
2	TOO	5	FIFE	8	EIGHT
3	THUH-REE	6	SIX	9	NINER
		Ø	ZERO		

ARES SEVERE WEATHER SUMMARY SHEET

Watch Box Data

Tornado:	Date:	Operator:
Sev. T-storm:		
Flash Flood:	Watch Number:	Expiration Time:

Affected Counties

Dodge:	Fond du Lac:	Jefferson:	Kenosha:
Milwaukee:	Ozaukee:	Racine:	Sheboygan
Walworth:	Wahsington:	Waukesha:	

Watch Box Coordinates	Remarks
_____ Miles either side of a line from	
to	

Warnings Issued

S.E. WISC. COUNTIES	Tornado	Thunder-storm	Flash Flood	Issued	Expired	Remarks
Dodge						
Fond du Lac						
Green						
Green Lake						
Jefferson						
Kenosha						
Milwaukee						
Ozaukee						
Racine						
Sheboygan						
Walworth						
Washington						
Waukesha						

1993 WB9SMM

Southeastern Wisconsin Counties

Net Control: _____ Date: _____

1. DANE						
2. DODGE						
3. FOND DU LAC						
4. GREEN						
5. GREEN LAKE						
6. JEFFERSON						
7. MILWAUKEE						
8. OZAUKEE						
9. RACINE / KENOSHA						
10. SHEBOYGAN						
11. WALWORTH						
12. WASHINGTON						
13. WAUKESHA						